



# Admiral's Corner

From Commander, Naval Safety Center



## The Right Mind-set

I've only been at the Naval Safety Center a few months, and the basic concept continually reinforced to me is: Safety must be an integral part of everything we do.

Our command's mission is to enhance the warfighting capability of the Navy and Marine Corps, preserve resources, and improve combat readiness by preventing mishaps and saving lives. When we make safety an integral part of everything we do, the Navy's mission will be accomplished. Our Sailors and Marines deserve every opportunity to do their jobs, which means we need them healthy and mission-ready.

On the inside front cover of this magazine, it states, "Mishaps waste our time and resources." We can't afford to let that happen. In the last 10 years, we have lost 11 aircrew and eight aircraft to the enemy, but we've lost 264 aircrew and 234 aircraft to non-combat mishaps. Fighting the Global War on Terrorism takes its toll, but the much greater loss of aircrew and aircraft occurs during our training and operational missions. We can't afford to let the "Blue Threat" rob us of our ability to carry out the mission. By Blue Threat, I mean you and me. Most of our losses—people and material—are not the result of the enemy (Red Threat), but the result of self-inflicted actions, with most mishaps occurring off-duty. This problem is significant when you realize that, between Memorial Day and Labor Day this year,

we lost 43 Sailors and Marines on our highways, here at home. This tragic loss is avoidable.

I'm here to make a difference! I firmly believe we can improve our safety record. Our leaders have to take proactive steps to create safety-oriented commands. When we accentuate the positives, identify best practices, and reward success, we create an environment of safety buy-in. Where we have a safe workplace and healthy Sailors, Marines and civilians, life is better. When we have the mind-set that safety is a full-time, on and off-duty way of life, then we're closer to mission accomplishment.

We are partnering with organizations, military and civilian, to improve our safety programs. In addition to current programs, such as safety surveys and culture workshops, the Naval Safety Center is moving forward with initiatives such as TRiPs (for managing risks for off-duty travel) and ORMAS (for managing risks for operations and training).

We are committed to a mishap-free Navy and Marine Corps.